

REMARKS

This application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action dated December 1, 2004 (the Office Action). Claims 1 to 4 and 6 to 21 are pending in the application, of which Claims 1, 16 and 17 are independent. Reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 2, and 5 to 21 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) over U.S. Patent No. 6,208,426 (Saito). Claims 3 and 4 were rejected under § 103(a) over Saito in view of assertions by the Office Action regarding certain features of the claims. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections are respectfully requested.

The invention concerns converting documents from paper to electronic form. Specifically, the invention addresses a design goal to provide a quick and easy process to convert paper documents to electronic documents and send the electronic documents to a destination. Conventionally, such a process can require a sending user to manually input many commands by utilizing a locally maintained and generated user interface, which can be inefficient and time consuming. For example, a sending user employing a conventional system must enter data, such as a destination email address, through a user interface that is generated by locally maintained program code stored in a local memory. This local user interface can be difficult to update with new options or functionality, for example, with an updated list of destination email addresses. This difficulty is exacerbated when multiple systems required updating, for example, in an office environment with tens or hundreds of conventional systems that each require a local software update to be performed.

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Claim 1 is characterized by a method for converting and sending electronic documents that includes sending user interface information from a server computer to a sending computer, wherein the user interface information enables a user of the sending computer to designate a scanning parameter for scanning the paper document and destination information for specifying the destination. In one example, the server computer sends Web pages to the sending computer. These Web pages sent from the server computer provide a user interface for the sending user to input data. In this example, the server computer also sends ActiveX commands to the sending computer to enable functionality on the sending computer. Examples of such user interface Web pages are shown in Figures 3 to 5.

In this example, the Web pages sent by the server computer can provide for choices of destination type, specific destination, scanning parameters, and other information. Thus, by utilizing such user interface information, a sending user can quickly and easily scan and send documents without resorting to a locally maintained and generated user interface. In an additional benefit, updating is simplified because only the user interface information maintained on the server computer requires updating.

By contrast, Saito is seen to disclose an electronic document sending system with a panel section 15 for inputting destination information such as an email address or a telephone number. The panel section 15 is managed by a local CPU 11, which is controlled by a program stored in a local ROM 12. Therefore, Saito does not disclose a user interface information sent from a server computer to a sending computer, much less a user interface information sent from a server computer to a sending computer for enabling

a user of the sending computer to designate a scanning parameter for scanning the paper document and destination information for specifying the destination.

In view of the foregoing amendment and remarks, the entire application is believed to be in condition for allowance and such action is respectfully requested at the Examiner's earliest convenience.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Costa Mesa, California office at (714) 540-8700. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,



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